

### **Remarks**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. No claims have been amended. No claims have been cancelled or added. Therefore, claims 1-16 are presented for examination.

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over De Bruycker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,277,219) and further in view of Alaimo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,614,811), and further in view of Williamson (U.S. Patent No. 6,477,249). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over the combination of De Bruycker, Alaimo, and Williamson.

De Bruycker discloses an ADSL/DSL (Very High Speed DSL) splitter integrated in a remote terminal of a pair gain system or in the NT1 (Network Termination 1) of an ISDN BA (Basic Access). See De Bruycker at Abstract. However, De Bruycker does not disclose or suggest splitting a digital subscriber line service from a plain old telephone service via a circuit board wherein the splitting occurs within a chassis without requiring a splitter external to the chassis at a customer premises. In fact, the Final Office Action admits that De Bruycker does not specify using circuit boards. See Final Office Action at Page 3, lines 12-20.

However, Alaimo has been cited as disclosing peripheral cards. *Id.* Alaimo discloses a modular multi-service telecommunication access device that includes a controller card and card slots for six peripheral cards and a power supply. See Alaimo at Abstract. Nonetheless, Alaimo does not disclose or suggest splitting a digital subscriber line service from a plain old telephone service via a circuit board wherein the splitting occurs within a chassis without requiring a splitter external to the chassis at a customer premises.

Williamson discloses a splitter that separates telephony traffic (POTS) from digital subscriber line (ADSL) traffic occupying a higher frequency band. The splitter comprises a low-pass filter for passing the telephony traffic, the low-pass filter being operable to vary its filtering response between a first low-pass response for use during telephony speech traffic, and a second, more restrictive, low-pass response for use during at least part of the time that telephony signaling traffic is present. See Williams at Abstract. Nevertheless, Williams does not disclose or suggest splitting a digital subscriber line service from a plain old telephone service via a circuit board wherein the splitting occurs within a chassis without requiring a splitter external to the chassis at a customer premises.

Claim 1 of the present application recites splitting a digital subscriber line service from a plain old telephone service via a third circuit board on a chassis having passive components, said splitting occurring within the chassis without requiring a splitter external to the chassis at a customer premises.

As described above none of the cited references disclose or suggest splitting a digital subscriber line service from a plain old telephone service via a circuit board, or the splitting occurring within a chassis without requiring a splitter external to the chassis at a customer premises. Since the references fail to disclose or suggest such features, any combination of the references would not disclose or suggest the features. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over De Bruycker, Alaimo and Williamson. Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and include additional features. Therefore, claims 2-5 are also patentable over De Bruycker in view of Alaimo and Williamson.

Claim 6 recites using passive components on a third circuit board to separate the DSL signals and the SLIC signals, wherein said passive components separate the DSL signals and

the SLIC signals within a chassis without requiring a splitter external to the chassis at a customer premises. Thus, for the same reasons as mentioned above with respect to claim 1, claim 6 is patentable over De Bruycker in view of Alaimo and Williamson. Since claims 7-13 depend from claim 6 and include additional features, claims 7-13 are also patentable over De Bruycker in view of Alaimo and Williamson.

Claim 14 recites separating DSL signals from signals in one more transition cards having primarily passive components, providing the DSL signals to a first hot-swappable circuit board and providing SLIC signals to a second hot-swappable circuit board. Applicant submits that Bruycker, Alaimo and Williamson all fail to disclose or suggest providing separated DSL signals to a first hot-swappable circuit board and providing separated SLIC signals to a second hot-swappable circuit board. Therefore, claim 14 is patentable over De Bruycker in view of Alaimo and Williamson. Because claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 14 and include additional features, claims 15 and 16 are also patentable over De Bruycker in view of Alaimo and Williamson.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

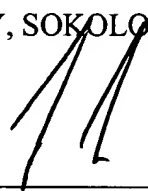
The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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